The Service-Learning Program is excited to offer a new service to all students completing a service-learning project: transportation. For many years, service-learning students without cars have struggled to find ways to complete their project while relying on others to carpool. Now, with the help of CSB transportation, students will have another option.

Starting October 29, the Service-Learning Program has begun running a 13 passenger mini-bus to many of its sites. The bus runs two days a week, Mondays and Thursdays, and makes a variety of stops including Kennedy Elementary, Southside Boys & Girls Club, La Cruz Community Center, Eastside Boys & Girls Club, Arlington Place, Discovery Elementary, Madison Elementary, St. Bens Center, and Talahi Elementary.

The mini-bus will make three trips each night: first a drop off route departing from the HCC at 2:30 pm, a second route that will drop off and pick up at 5:00 pm, and a final pick-up route beginning at 8:00 pm. Currently, the route is flexible but it is expected to become more structured during spring semester.

Service-Learning is excited to provide this opportunity for our students. It is our hope that the mini-bus route will make completing service-learning projects a more convenient and stress-free experience. If you have any questions regarding the new mini-bus route or would like to reserve a spot, please contact Service-Learning or Dianne Johnstone (djohnstone@csbsju.edu). See you on the road!

Adia Zeman
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator
Spooktacular Party!

Katy Torchia, CSB Junior, and Maggie Engelmeier, CSB Sophomore, decided to do something out of the ordinary with their service-learning project at Arlington Place: throwing a “Spooktacular” Halloween Party with the residents, complete with costumes and games.

With personalized invitations inviting each resident to their “Spooktacular Party” coupled with the creativity supplied by Katy and Maggie’s newfound friend at Arlington Place, who was known as Mrs. America at the Halloween bash, they were able to throw a successful party. Fifteen of the nineteen residents at Arlington Place attended, and nine of the residents came in costume. “When we walked in, everyone was there, dressed up and waiting for us!” says Engelmeier. Wearing name tags, making pumpkins out of paper, reciting the history of Halloween, guessing the number of candy corns in a jar, making ghost suckers, sharing Halloween jokes, and eating eyeballs and witches’ fingers all helped make this party complete.

At the end of the party, Katy and Maggie handed out Participation Awards and Top Costume Awards. They had lots of good costumes to choose from! A couple of witches, a dead leopard, a teenager from the ‘50s, a Hawaiian hula girl, Mrs. America, a witch from Mars, a pumpkin, and an inmate certainly showed the creativity of the residents.

While Katy and Maggie admit they began their service-learning project dreading the time commitment, they both say they do not even feel like they are giving of their time when they are there. “We learned that the experience is what you make of it,” says Engelmeier. “Go there and forget about everything else, focus on making people’s days, do things outside of your comfort zone,” Torchia says about service-learning. Through embracing this experience together, the two women have become close friends. (Katy and Maggie pictured above).

Faculty Social

On Thursday, October 28th, a faculty and staff meeting was held, sponsored by CSB/SJU Service Learning. The event was held at O’Connell’s on the St. Ben’s campus, and was intended to provide information to the faculty and staff on the Service-Learning Program. Faculty and staff socials are held each month and are sponsored by various departments from CSB/SJU.

Galen Himrich
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

Lindsey Cermak
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator
Marie and Robert Jackson Fellowship Update

The group of Fellows part of the Marie and Robert Jackson Fellowship has been doing many things since the summer. The fellowship was previously just a summer program, but now lasts an entire year. Instead of serving with a community partner as the Fellows did during the summer, they participate in leadership and professional skills training workshops, volunteer days, and other forms of engagement.

The Jackson Fellows hosted a poster presentation on October 29th in the Gorecki Dining and Conference Center to show off their summer work. Following the presentation was a celebratory dinner for the families and community partners of the Fellows. Each Fellow shared a small piece of her/his experience during the dinner. Junior Emily Bina shared her thoughts with the crowd during the celebration, “When applying for the Marie and Robert Jackson Fellowship I couldn’t fathom the breadth of opportunity with which I was being presented. But as I quickly learned, the program is set up so that I am wholly responsible for taking advantage of those opportunities… This opportunity has inspired me – both in my own work and hearing about the other Fellows’ summer experiences. I know it will keep me engaged in my community, engaged in politics, engaged in service work and ultimately engaged in my future.”

The poster presentation was a great way for the Fellows to share their experience with the students, faculty, and administration of CSB/SJU, the community partners, and the families of the Fellows.

On November 21st, the Fellows, along with the Bonner Program, and Professor Manju Parikh’s Politics course volunteered at Place of Hope’s Hope for the Holidays. The group split up into three shifts and helped with the tasks of setting up an event: cooking food, decorating tables, serving food, cleaning, and dish washing, to name a few… It was a great team-building service day for the Fellows, Bonners, and Politics students. (Ashley Ver Burg is pictured above).

Brian Long
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator

Faculty Profile—Jen Kramer

With the implementation of a new Health Services facility at CSB this year Assistant Professor Jen Kramer and her students from Health Communication are working hard to promote the new health and medical services that the facility has to offer. They are doing this, “so the students understand where they are, what they offer, what their limitations are, and that we have some amazing providers who have been hired there. We want to get out the message of quality of care. We don’t want this to be a drive through kind of clinic… and the staff are women!” states Kramer.

This is Jen Kramer’s first year implementing Service-Learning in her Health Communication class and has been doing an amazing job at keeping her students organized as well as encouraging them to be creative in their efforts. “Hands-on experience with running a campaign is such an amazing experience for the students. Prior to working with Service-Learning, I would hear back from students and they would be like ‘oh my gosh, I am finally applying it.’ Kramer has created a way for her students to understand what they are learning in the classroom. It is because of her upbeat positive attitude, as well as the constant hard work from her students, that the campaign is starting to become a success around the St. Ben’s campus.

Jackie Carlson
Service-Learning Academic Coordinator
The Liemandt Family Service-Learning Program is committed to holistic learning by incorporating the classroom and community into the learning experience. It develops intentional and meaningful service experiences based in social justice and academic learning.

We encourage, support and appreciate diversity in all of its forms. We strive to meet the specific needs of the community. We encourage students to engage in their community, reflect on their experience, and allow it to change their lives.